

January 7, 1898 The cornstalks are coming in fast. It takes 15 men and a superintendent to handle the unloading.

I.P. McDowell's suit against the city: He wants to tile the sewage ditch outlet on his farm.

January 21, 1898 Messers P.C. James, J.A. Sheaff, and W.S. Catton are doing Jury service in Pontiac this week.

January 28, 1898 George W. Cable to lecture at the Opera House on "To See Our Life As Romance Sees It."

(The Blade has been having a running squabble with Brydia of the Local Record over Free Silver.)

AF Filley is on the sick list.

The German Lutheran Church, Southwest of Anchor has four or five hundred attendants. It was Organized in 1877 and has a large school house.

February 4, 1898 Cable gave a splendid address.

Grandma Wray is 106 years old.

Prof. Bangs is running for State Superintendent of Schools.

Ad: Artistic wall paper 2 cents a roll at Walton's.

February 11, 1898 AF Filley shipped five full blooded Hampshire Down Sheep to a breeder at Adecock, Kentucky, Monday.

Grace Sharp is a teacher at Duluth, Minn. Miss Sharp is a superior teacher.

February 18, 1898

The Maine Disaster

The loss of life was over 250. The Government at Washington is maintaining a dignified and admireable attitude pending the official investigation which as been ordered.

The fire drill in the schools is criticized by a subscribed for creating panic among the scholars.

There is a skunk under the sidewalk in the business district, especially around the First National Bank. It has been very much in evidence the past week or so, and continues to be very much alive and very active.

Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley and daughter, Mrs. N.E. Fulton, visited the family of Capt. William Strawn at Odell, the first of the week.

February 25, 1898 Conerus Fan Tail cigars.

March 4, 1898

A Brilliant Social Function

Mrs. J.V. McDowell, Mrs. C.E. Amsler, Mrs. C.A. Purdum and Miss Ella Hayes gave a "white and rose" reception at five o'clock at the residence of Mrs. McDowell on Hickory Street. The windows were darkened and the rooms were brilliantly lighted. They were decorated with roses, carnations and smilax. Burches' Orchestra played. Little Misses Mamie Lewis and Greta Shover served frappe, and Van Essa McDowell and Leona James presented to each guest a pink rose as a favor.

Ladies will please remove their hats at the theatre as they do in the cities. If they don't they are behind the times. (Psychology)

43 years ago Isaac Walton began working for David Crum for \$5.00 a month, the first money he ever earned.

March 11, 1898 Fairbury needs to have the business district paved. Hoopston and Paxton have it.

War Clouds

March 18, 1898 Spain Vs. Cuba

March 25, 1898 The Cuban Situation

Twenty Years ago, March 23, 1878. Virgin and Brown sold the Norman Horse "Beauty" for \$1,700.

W.T. Stackpole has an article in favor of Mexican coin as legal money.

Cuts and drawings of war vessels of Spain which would defend the Harbor of Havana.

Aid must be sent to starving Cubans.

April 1, 1898 War appears certain.

Deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Smith Olney at their home in Fresno, Calif., within a few days of each other.

Uncle Tom's Cabin coming.

Earl Hanna was shot Tuesday evening by Joe Ellis as the result of a standing quarrel over Winnie Rogers of this place. "The shooting took place on the north side of Hickory Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Ellis fled and has not been apprehended. Winnie lives on the Northwest corner of Fourth and Hickory. Hickory Street has a hedge fence running along the North side. The sidewalk is set in from the hedge so that there is perhaps four feet between the hedge and the walk. There is a grassy space between the walk and the roadside ditch. A large sliver maple tree stands by the hedge just west of where they met." Hanna was attended by Dr. Otis and Dr. Lewis. He had served a year in the Pontiac Reformatory for chicken stealing, and Ellis was in the habit of carrying arms. The dogs of the Anti-Horse-Thief Association were able to trail him only a little way.

Walton's another four pages of ads. This happens frequently.

April 15, 1898 War Is Near

E.S. Wilson, the M.E. Pastor, is candidate for the Legislature.

Men's Alaska seal skin shoes never get hard and keep out water. Sold only by Walton Bros.

April 29, 1898 Carter, former Blade editor, is now successful lecturer.

May 6, 1898 Twenty years ago, April 27, 1878. (This paper was not in the files) Abe Filley of Nebraska visited Fairbury, having been delivering cattle and hogs at Chicago. He looks as tough as an old Indian fighter having spent most of his time riding on the plains.

A Chart of our Navy.

The Spanish fleet is reported to be crossing the Atlantic.

Best evaporated raspberries, 18 cents lb. at Purdum's.

Misses fast black ribbed cotton hose only 5 cents a pair at Bethard's.

Patriotic neckties, the finest line you ever saw at Walton's.

The news of the naval battle at Manilla caused an impromptu celebration Monday evening. The drum corps shared public interest with the firing of anvils, and finally about 50 boys organized a tin pan band and made enough noise for a small cannonade. People of all classes were happy.

May 13, 1898 Battle at San Juan, Puerto Rico; the Spanish fort was virtually destroyed by our ships.

May 20, 1898 Our fleet is now at Santiago.

Gladstone, the English Statesman, died.

George Decker is playing a great game with the St. Louis team.

May 27, 1898 Ad: Ladies shirt waist distenders at Walton Bros.

June 3, 1898 Company C may be called.

Miss Mabel Strawn of Odell was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley.

June 17, 1898 Mr. and Mrs. Victor Fogle gave an elaborate and exceedingly interesting party yesterday afternoon at the family residence, corner of Oak and Fifth Streets. The affair was a surprise upon Mrs. Fogles' mother, Mrs. Harriet N. Coomer, in celebration of her 77th birthday, and the guests were most of them in the neighborhood of 70 years or over. (Mrs. Coomer was taken away from home for the surprise. She was presented by the guests with an elegant dining table as souvenir of the occasion.

Grand Callithumpian Parade to be one of the Fourth of July features. General John C. Black will be the orator. One of the most grand and magnificent displays ever to be seen in this part of the country will be exhibited at the city hall in the evening. The baseball game in the afternoon will be a cracking good thing to see.

Eliza Schnetzler, wife of H.J. died. She was born in Switzerland. Her children Edith, Charles and Emma survive. The services were from the German Apostolic Church.

June 18, 1898 There is almost constant fighting at Santiago.

Commencement: Truman Carrithers gave the oration, "America Iconoclastic." The girls' dresses described.

June 24, 1898 Dr. C.B. Ostrander has had his house painted red white and blue, and the effect is very striking.

Robert Henning is again studying law in the office of Herbert Powell.

July 1, 1898 Twenty-two recruits for Company F left Pontiac.

Stores will be closed July 4th.

Mrs. Mary Wray died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. R.G. Grouch, in Fairbury last Sunday morning, July 3rd, at 3 o'clock. The funeral was held at the residence Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. E. S. Wilson. (Woodcut) Miss Mary Abshire was born near Rocky Mount in Franklin County, Virginia, February 4, 1792. Her father's name was Edward Abshire. She was married in 1813, to Preston Wray, who died about 57 years ago. She was the mother of seven children, of whom six are living. She lived in Tippecanoe County, Indiana for many years but for the last twenty-nine years has lived mostly with her daughter, Mrs. Richard Crouch. In an article in 1894, the Blade said of Mrs. Wray: "She can see well and can thread a needle without glasses. She has twice taken to glasses and twice regained her sight. Her hearing is fairly good. Her memory is much impaired and of course she is quite aged in appearance. Altogether she is remarkably well preserved for her age. Last summer she kept house for Mrs. Crouch, while Mrs. Crouch went to the World's Fair, tending to the house plans, cooking the meals, etc., and doing it very well. She did not attend the fair herself because she has a prejudice against riding on the cars, considering them dangerous. She will not ride behind horses for the same reason and goes no where that she cannot walk. At a party given by Mrs. Crouch in honor of her 104th birthday there were present besides Mrs. Wray, the following of her descendants: Mrs. Richard Crouch, daughter. Mrs. A.F. Filley and Mrs. George Westervelt, daughters of Mrs. Crouch and granddaughters of Mrs. Wray. Henderson Fugate and Daniel Fugate, sons of Mrs. Crouch and grandsons of Mrs. Wray. The grandchildren of Mrs. Wray were Mrs. P.C. James and Miss Ruth Filley (now Mrs. N.F. Fulton) daughters of Mrs. A.F. Filley, Willie Fugate, son of Henderson Fugate; Marion, John, Frances and Chloe Fugate, children of Daniel Fugate, and Miss Gertie McDowell, daughter of Mrs. Chloe McDowell, deceased. The great-great grandchildren of Mrs. Wray were Rosamond, Leona and Lois, daughters of Mrs. P.C. James. Mrs. Richard Crouch, daughter of Mrs. Wray, was devoted to her mother during many years, and in her last illness was the most affectionate and faithful of nurses.

A Life's Span

Mrs. Mary Wray, whose death is recorded in another place, had long been a noted person because of the great age to which she had attained. It is given to a few children of earth to live to a hundred years and no other hundred years of the world's history ever made so notable an era in the story of the human race. Not a single year of the hundred that was not more potent of great results than were all the long ages of Methuselah. Mrs. Wray was born in the last year of Washington's first administration in a mountain country of what was then the frontier of the leading state of the Union. The French Revolution was about to evolveth reign of terror and the world was convulsed with the death throes of a new era in the history of the race. Kentucky was not yet admitted to the Union and nearly all the North American continent was an unconquered wilderness. She lived under the administration of every one of the presidents of the United States. The cotton gin, the steamboat, the railroad, the telegraph, all the modern inventions that have done so much to revolutionize society and change the face of the world were products of the period covered by her lifetime. When she was born the empire of Spain extended over more then half the fairest portions of the western hemisphere. The single life of this woman spans the century between the Napoleanic wars that involved Spain's world empire and the war for Cuban liberation that will mark that empire's final extinction. She was nine years old when Jefferson made the United States a continental power by the purchase of Louisiana. She was married in the year of Waterloo. She was a young mother when Jackson beat off the British at New Orleans. She saw the passage and the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the war of the regellion that followed and the final destruction of slavery. She was only fifteen years younger than Henry Clay who lived his great career and died forty-six years ago. The history of her time would be substantially, in the words of the historian McMasters, "the history of the people of the United States from close of the war for independence". She saw "every stage of the splendid progress which, separates the America of Washington and Adams from the American in which we live; the changes of manners and morals; the growth of that humane spirit which abolished punishment for debt; which reformed the discipline of prisons and jails, which destroyed slavery and lessened the miseries of dumb brutes." Her life witnesses " the manifold improvements which in a thousand ways have multiplied the conveniences of life and ministered to the happiness of our race, the rise and progress of that long series of mechanical inventions and discoveries which are the admiration of the world and our just pride in both." In the course of her life "there sprang up a prosperity unparalleled in the annals of human affairs. From a state of great poverty and feeble country it grew rapidly to one of opulence and power. By a wide system of free education and a free press knowledge was disseminated, the arts and sciences advance and the ingenuity of our people became fruitful of wonders farm more astonishing than any of which the alchemists had ever dreamed." In all this world-wide drama of war and peace Mrs. Wray bore a simple but faithful woman's part. Her life's work was the common labor of the industrious millions who builded with sturdy hands the fabric of the nation's destiny. She walked not among rulers and stood not in the high places of the earth. No historian shall write upon the deathless page the story of her life. Yet it is a story to be proud of. A story of duty done, of faithful effort, of rest well earned, and through it all hopefulness, contentment and fidelity. "Honor and fame from no condition rise. Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

Anslem Wray, and Mr. and Mrs. Moses Shelby, of Kirpatrick, Ind., and Mr. John Wray, of Romney, Indiana, attended the funeral of Grandma Wray. Anslem Wray is a son, and Mrs. Shelby and John Wray are grandchildren of the deceased.

July 15, 1898 Santiago surrenders.

July 22, 1898 War concert by the Epworth League at the Opera House 10 cents and 20 cents.

The watering of lawns is a serious matter and is forbidden. Violators will have their water shut off without notice.

Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beach entertains Mrs. Maloney Kilgore, Mr. Beach's cousin and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mary Kilgore.

July 29, 1898 Shall we keep the Philippines? The Blade asks this question of representative men. T.A. Beach: "I think we ought to keep the Philippines."

They say that George Franzen of this place will be a candidate before the Democratic convention next week for the office of County Treasurer. It isn't any business of ours, perhaps, but if the County Treasurer had to be a Democrat we should be glad if it were Franzen. He would do the business alright and be a pleasant man to deal with.

August 5, 1898 Third Illinois Regiment is in Puerto Rico.

McKinley has stated terms of peace.

Mona Kring fell off a high porch and broke both bones of the lower arm. Dr. Lewis attended.

August 19, 1898 Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Agard gave a progressive crokinole party for Miss Nellie Carrithers.

N.E. Fulton is suffering from a series of carbuncles on the back of his neck which are of remarkable size and virulence.

September 2, 1898 Sam S. Rogers, aged 77 years, died. In 1876 he commenced the management of the Fairbury House.

The Fair. A Daily Blade.

September 7, 1898 Cut of Main Street notable for the dirt street, telephone poles. The electric wires ran across the street with the light in the center. The walks were low wooden ones.

Diphtheria is prevalent.

Fred Wernsman fell off his engine Friday and broke the crazy bone in his right arm. Dr. Lewis fixed him up.

Kingmans are visiting here.

Purdum's ad: 7 bars of the best White Russian soap 25 cents.

Twenty years ago column: Meeting at hall for the relief of the yellow fever sufferers in the south was called to order by JS Scibird. \$100 was raised by the committee.

September 9, 1898 Cut of old St. John's Catholic Church.

Capt. William Strawn of Odell is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. AF Filley.

Purdum's ad: 18 lbs granulated sugar \$1.00

Fairbury censored a Fair side show: A wholly exposed female for in dancing posture and multiplied by mirrors.

Souvenir Blade

Methodist Church, T.A. Beach house, J.W. McDowell house and Episcopal Church among others.

John Walton left to attend the University of Southern California.

Mrs. John Virgin and daughters Ad. Cooley of Spokane, Washington, and grandson, John are visiting here.

September 16, 1898 McDowell Bros. stable sold to Wilson and Morris.

Salmon Allen dead. Was born in New Hampshire and was a stage driver from Metamora to Washington.

Shipment of incubator chickens from Streator.

A.F. Filley started for Canada Thursday to attend a sale of Imported Hampshire Down and Dorset sheep.

Fairbury Has Material For A Big Club

A minister in a neighboring town at the close of Sunday night service gave out the following notice: "The regular session of the Donkey Club will be held as usual at the close of this service. Members will line up just outside the church door, make remarks and stare at the women who pass, as is their custom. Any member known to escort a young woman to a church like a man and sit with her like a gentleman will be promptly expelled from membership."

Conrad Munz made about 6000 gal of sorghum this year.

A.F. Filley returned from London, Canada, Thursday, bringing with him 3 imported Dorset and 4 imported Hampshire Down sheep, purchased at a sale at that place. They are all splendid animals.

October 7, 1898 Third Illinois Regiment ordered home.

October 14, 1898 The No Name Store has removed 4 doors east. Don't forget the place.

Messers. Thomas Beach and MM Spence are attending the Omaha Exp.

The long distance telephone has been removed from Parson's Drug Store to Payne Bros. Clothing Store.

Mrs. L.B. Dominy and J.J. Pence will represent the Fairbury Bay View Circle at the State Federation of Woman's Clubs at Chicago next week.

Souvenir Blade. Picture of Walton's Store. South Side School had a steeple for the bell in the center of the roof.

In the picture of the watertower there was just a steel framework holding up the tank. It wasn't bricked up.

October 21, 1898 President will keep the Philippines.

(The Blade has been having cartoons and jokes on the inner pages for some time.)

The walnut crop in this part of the country is fair, but hickory nuts are scarce. The hazel bushes have been about all cleared out.

Van Essa McDowell celebrated her 9th birthday.

The High School has a football team.

(The Blade is placing small cuts with the ads among the local items. They appear at the bottom of the page.)

T.A. Beach and daughter, Mrs. G.C. Lewis are shopping in Chicago.

T.A. Beach was among those in Peoria this week serving on the U. S. Grand and Petit juries.

The city water was shut off for a day for pump repairs.

November 11, 1898 Election returns.

Shankland and Fulton dissolved. G.A. Sutton enters partnership.

Thomas McDowell of Gibson City died aged 95. He was an uncle of I. P. He used to visit the Fairbury schools when he lived here to see the pretty teachers.

November 18, 1898 Shankland has bought the Pontiac Leader.

Twenty Years Ago Item: The Demoss boys returned from a big hunt with 100 ducks and a lot of prairie chickens and quail.

The willow trees surrounding the south side school grounds have been cut down and the flag pole moved.

A.F. Filley shipped 5 full blooded Hampshire down sheep to John E. McKeehan, La Crew, Iowa, Monday.

The small boy with lantern and rifle is out in force after the wary sparrow, laying by the heads thereof against the season of Santa Claus. Town Clerk Sorg is onto the urchins, however, and says that salted heads won't go with him. Nothing but nice, clean, fresh heads of the vintage of December, 1898, will be good for legal tender at the County seat.

The Sims and Blair failure has been in litigation for four years, and final, full payment has been made by attorney Herbert Powell.

November 25, 1898 Phil Wade has in a cage in his window a fine specimen of golden or war eagle. Bill Hallock and Burt Bradshaw shot it south of town. The wing spread is seven feet. It seems to be recovering from its wounds.

Kipling reading Club formed of young Presbyterian boys.

December 9, 1898 Two years ago column: Uncle Jesse Titus says that he has no objection to George Franzen going with the girls but he does object to George forming platoons of three with a blushing damsel on each arm and crowding people off the sidewalk.

Someone stole all of Dan Potter's winter meat.

December 18, 1898 Every team that can be pressed into service is hauling ice.

December 30, 1898 Twenty years ago: Chicago and Paducah passenger train was stuck in a snow bank all night at Normal.

January 6, 1899 Letter from the Marsden Co., 850 Drexel Bldg., Philadelphia, Penn. The cellulose factory is to be located at Owensboro, Kentucky, where it can be more partically operated. There is no question of abandoning the locality of Fairbury. It is only a question of time until they will get going.

Fresh oysters at Purdum's, 25 cents a quart.

Twenty years ago: The snow drifted on the Chicago and Paducah Railroad from four to seven feet deep for four miles taking twenty-seven men twenty-four hours to dig the train out.

Mr. T.A. Beach and Miss Ella and Mrs. L.B. Dominy were among the ladies who received New Years calls.

January 13, 1899 Fairbury is again bothered by bums.

Brawn Vs. Brain

A short time ago Mr. Bruner, the village school master at McDowell chastised a twelve year old son of L. Breedlove, the village blacksmith, for some misdemeanor, whereat, Breedlove's ire was aroused and meeting Bruner in the Wabash depot undertook to twist his neck, or deeds to that effect. Breedlove is a large powerful man, while Bruner is a small man. It developed, however, that Bruner knew how to use his fists. Breedlove commenced the fracas by swinging his right at Bruner who sidestepped and came back at him with a left swing which landed on Breedlove's jaw. The blacksmith swung again but the schoolmaster dodged again and landed a straight punch on his opponent's nose. Breedlove was getting groggy, and Bruner got in a right hook on his neck. Just at this time the station agent came in and tried to separate them. Breedlove felt a choking sensation about the neck and yelled murder but apparently the schoolmaster didn't hear him as he continued to land rights and lefts on Breedlove's face in regular Sharkey style. The next day Breedlove went to Pontiac and had A.A. Colter, the agent, arrested. He was held in that city Thursday before Justice McKay and resulted in Colter's being fined \$25.00. It developed at the trial that Colter in his zeal to keep the men from fighting, threw Breedlove down and sat on him. He couldn't hold Bruner, however and that young man continued to put in some good licks for brains.

January 20, 1899 Chas. And Oliver Payne will start a new drug store and are redecorating the place.

Twenty Years Ago: Henry Kingman lost \$140.00 out of his bank book, \$120.00 of which was recovered blowing around in the street.

Wholesale poisoning of dogs around Fairbury.

The Kipling Club met with Mr. Davies. They read "The Undertakers", and were entertained with a half hour of phonographic music.

Free express delivery now for Fairbury.

January 27, 1899 D.D. Fultz married Miss Iva Mapel.

January 28, 1899 Bill Bartlett born.

February 3, 1899 Twenty Years Ago: The delegates to the canal convention at Peoria were Henry Kingman, R.C. Straight, W.T. Stackpole, John Virgin, J.S. Scibird and J.W. Beers.

M.L. Sullivant, the farmer king, of Burr Oaks, died at Evansville, Indiana, Wednesday.

George Franzen managed a dance at Fairbury Hall, and waxed the floors with beeswax. The dancers were stuck on it.

The newly acquired island of Puerto Rico will be discussed at the Opera House tonight by Prof. Mitchell of Company F. Press reports speak highly of his lecture.

J.K. Shook advertising for a housekeeper.

Ida Stewart and Ora Shanks married.

Twenty Years Ago: Dr. Salisbury of Strawn has the measles.

T.A. Beach is sick.

H.I. Reynolds's team pulled the awning in front of Westervelt's blacksmith shop Tuesday. Harry was under the awning and got bruised up somewhat.

Mr. and Mrs. N.E. Fulton attended the meeting of the Illinois Press Association which met at the Livingston Hotel, Chicago, this week.

February 17, 1899 Practically the whole of the first page was given to the shooting of City Marshall Fred Baird by Sam Rightsell. Picture of Fred Baird, and drawing of the cellar of W.H. Bartlett's residence where the shooting occurred, and where Rightsell had ran to escape arrest. Rightsell had been in a bad mood for some time previous over a writ of attachment for \$30.00 sued out by Dr. Thatcher. Constable Galloway had, in Baird's absence, levied on a horse and cow, taking them to Sampey and Beggs' livery stable. Rightsell went after Galloway and snapped his gun twice but it didn't go off. Then he ran for Harry Bartlett's house. Harry was gone and his wife was sick. The servant ran for Hi Taylor to report a tramp, and Hi called Baird. Baird was killed as he went down the cellar stairs. Rightsell gave himself up.

February 24, 1899 Elijah B. Love and Jennie Robinson married.

Payne Bros. new drug store opened.

March 3, 1899 Uncle Tom's Cabin street parade Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

March 10, 1899 The telephone directory is out. Eighty-seven numbers are listed. T.A. Beach – 76, Dr. G.C. Lewis office – 96 residence – 32, H.B. Taylor – 71, LB Dominy Bank – 23, Kring Bros. – 45, Alex Milne – 15.

Walton's Ad: Picnic ham 5 cents a pound.

March 24, 1899 County Prohibition convention.

Temperance Mass Meeting at Baptist Church.

Ad: Uncle Tom says that all good people go to Walton Bros. for wall paper.

G.Y. McDowell has accepted a position in the bank of L.B. Dominy.

March 31, 1899 P.C. James sold a blooded colt to Baltimore parties this week and shipped him to that city Wednesday evening. He got a good price for the animal.

April 7, 1899 Twenty Years Ago: Wild ducks are very plentiful.

The telephone craze has struck town and lines are being put in by Jesse Titus, H.S. Clough, John Virgin and A.F. Filley.

T.H. Shover has taken a position in Walton Bros. grocery.

Nell Lewis and Clarence Smith were at a dancing party in Ottawa.

April 14, 1899 Dr. Parsons lived on South Fifth Street.

Chester Claudon had a card party.

Bobby Roberts makes brooms for 25 cents and 30 cents; also reseats chairs for seventy-five cents.

April 21, 1899 Ella Bailey is to be married to Mr. Louis Henderson at the home of the bride's parents, Glendora, California, Wednesday, May 3, 1899. They will come at once to this city where they will make their home.

Fairbury is to erect a monument to Fred Baird. \$120.00 has been subscribed.

D.D. Fultz is principal of the Saunemin schools.

(Nell Lewis calls herself Helen now; went to Chicago with J.E.)

Twenty years ago: H.H. Stafford hit ye editor with a hard snowball Wednesday.

John Morris's smokehouse burned down and John will do without bacon this summer.

Will Gardner was assisting in unloading grain at the Bartlett elevator when he got dumped in head first and the whole load on top of him. No bones broke, but he lost his tobacco.

Field Day exercises of the Fairbury Public schools at the Fairground. The schools of the surrounding towns are wanted to compete for prizes. 15 cents adults, and 5 cents for grade school children. The money is to go for buying the prizes.

T.A. Beach and C.L. Perlee and daughter Mabel were Chicago visitors this week.

A.H. Mudt moved into new quarters in Payne's store. He has the east part of the front end.

N.E. Fulton purchased the Mahannah property, corner of Elm and Webster, of the Building and Loan Association, last Monday.

May 5, 1899 Los Angeles Sunday Times, April 30: Married, Louis Henderson of Fairbury, aged 28, of Fairbury, Illinois and Lou Ella Bailey, native of Illinois, aged 27 years.

May 12, 1899 An engineer examines the water tower: Pieces(?) are not level three inch difference. Posts out of plumb, tower has a twist to the Northwest, rods and braces are all loose; posts have decayed: waste of money to repair them (tower).

Stock is running at large in the city despite the ordinance. It is to be enforced.

Party given by Hazel Dominy.

A.H. Mundt accidentally shot himself Thursday morning. He shot at a cat, and in placing the revolver in his pocket it was discharged. The ball entered his hip and traveled the entire length of his leg just under the skin, Mr. Mundt taking it out just above the heel. The wound would have laid an ordinary man up for a month, but Mr. Mundt was attending to his business as usual without the loss of ten minutes time.

Two runaways occurred on Main Street, the horses running the full length of the street. Nobody was hurt, however. People should be careful about leaving their teams untied as they are liable to a heavy fine under the city ordinance.

The medals for the Field Day are on display at Mundt's.

Agard is at a Glass Blower's Meeting in Philadelphia.

Lou Henderson and wife are home.

May 26, 1899 Horse race at the Fairgrounds Saturday.

J.M. Hieronymous's invention: A fastener to hold chair legs, rounds, and furniture work of all kinds.

Blade listed a newspaper Blue Book which contains only the best papers of each county in the United States. The Blade is the only weekly paper listed in Livingston County.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith and their grandchildren left for a trip to Nebraska and other Western states Tuesday. They will travel overland, take their time and see the country. Mr. Smith has built a regular house on wheels in which they will make their journey.

Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beach started Monday for Harrison, Ohio, where they will spend several weeks visiting old friends and relatives.

June 2, 1899

Quarter of a Century

Outline history of the Fairbury Bank. The employees are now A.C. Bartlett, W.R. Bane and G.Y. McDowell.

Truman Carrithers leaves for West Point.

June 9, 1899 Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley are visiting Capt. William Strawn and family at Odell.

Edith Mitten, aged 13, stood highest in the County exams.

June 16, 1899 Twenty Years Ago: Elder Cloys was in town again and interested his former partner, T.A. Beach, in a reciprocating clam shell. J.C. Morrison also joined the firm.

George Decker has been released by the Louisville Baseball Club. He has been in very poor health for some months past and will probably have to give up ball playing.

Doctor Ostrander celebrated his 53rd wedding anniversary. His wife is ailing but he is in apparent good health.

S.M. Barnes is mayor of Fairbury.

June 28, 1899 Callithumpian Parade for the Fourth. Cash prizes are to be given, and 100 men are wanted for it. Prizes for street games, special trains, fireworks, and Pontiac Military Band.

Children's Day at Free Methodist Church.

Dr. Lewis 2 Ob.(Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Morrison a son, June 23.)

June 30, 1899 The city decides to use sewer pipe for drainage. It is needed, for the North side cellars are flooded after every heavy rain.

A number of good wagons and sixty-three riders have entered the Cal. Parade.

ClaraBelle Kingman married E.D. Miller of Delavan, Kans.

Bethard's: Ladies dress skirts twenty-five cents.

George Decker has greatly improved and has signed with the Washington Senators.

July 7, 1899 It rained on the Fourth for the first time in years. It began threatening early and was pouring by three o'clock.

Walton's are doing that balloon-suit stunt again.

Hens 7 ½ cents a pound at Perlee's.

Mrs. Lou Henderson ill.

Truman Carrithers is the youngest cadet at West Point. He is under the required age, so his father will have to pay his expenses until then.

July 14, 1899 Saturday afternoon and evening finished the Fourth with street contests and fireworks.

Von Tobel's Lumber Yard is to be moved for a new park and depot.

(The Blade still believes in the cellulose factory.)

Marsh Park has been used for years in the summer for the storage of cows and horses. The council put out a number of trees and had the grass cut once or twice a year, but nothing else was done.

July 21, 1899 Hot Time Tennis Club organized, John Purdum manager.

July 28, 1899 Tile ditch on Maple street started.

(Large Cut) By courtesy of the Chicago Tribune, the Blade is enabled to publish the above cut of Mr. John Bodley of Lodemia, which appeared in the Tribune Thursday with the following commentary: "Laughing Bodley", who is mingling his loud guffaws with the sounds of worship at the Desplaines camp meeting, is one of the best known characters in the assemblage. His laughter is a feature of the camp meetings in Illinois. It does not denote levity and is not considered a disturbing element. It is Bodley's way of evincing his satisfaction at the points made by an exhorter or the effect of the exhortations in bringing large numbers to the anxious seat. Bodley is from Livingston County where he is a farmer. Years ago he was converted at a camp meeting, and when the "scales fell from his eyes" he burst out laughing with joy. He has been attending camp meetings at every opportunity since then and his laughter grows louder and more sonorous with long practice. The Rev. Thomas Harrison, known as the "boy evangelist", was preaching at the Desplaines meeting when Bodley made his presence known. The audience was gradually becoming enthusiastic when the loud laugh of the Livingston County farmer was heard. The enthusiasm burst its bonds, and cries of "Amen" and "Hallelujah" drowned the voice of the preacher, and the people began singing "Rescue the Perishing" which someone started.

Here and There

The death of Robert G. Ingersol calls to the mind of the older citizens the balmy days of "force thought" in the city. Fairbury Hall, which is known now as the Fairbury Opera House was dedicated to "Free Thought". Chief among the "Free Thinker" was Bruce Amsbury, Thomas Jones and Dawson Smith. There was a large number of them in Fairbury at the time and they were aggressive. The hall was built by subscription and was commenced in the spring of 1870. It was dedicated to "free thought" by Robert G. Ingersol, in 1871, and on that occasion he delivered his famous lecture, "His Gods". One of the older citizens who remembers the occasion well, says that there were no chairs in the Opera House but the seats were planks placed upon nail kegs. The hall was packed to the doors and many people were unable to get inside. Mr. Ingersol afterwards delivered several lectures to the "free thought people". He was at that time a resident of Peoria, and he had not yet become famous as an orator. He had obtained considerable notoriety on account of his opposition to the Christian religion. In the building of the hall the Christian era was ignored, and the figure 94 was placed in the center of the arch over the stage, it being the 94th year after the Declaration of Independence. It was supposed by a number of people that the 94 had in some way to do with the birth of Tom Paine, but such was not the case. The figures remained there until the property came into the possession of T.A. DuBois. The "free thought" people held meetings in the hall for quite a while afterwards and were addressed at different times by prominent free thinkers from different parts of the United States. Dawson Smith was an employee of the East Shaft and a brilliant talker. He was the regular Sunday speaker. Both Mr. Amsbury and Mr. Jones are dead, and Dawson Smith is said to be living in Kansas.

A year or two after the erection of Fairbury Hall, Rev. Underwood, President of Eureka College, challenged Ingersol for a debate. The challenge was accepted, and Fairbury was chosen as the place of meeting. A large Tabernacle was erected on Main or Locust Street between Third and Fourth Streets, the hall not being deemed large enough. Thousands of people were present to hear the debate, and both Ingersol and Underwood displayed great oratorical ability, and both sides claimed the victory. It is said, however, by a number of the older citizens who were present that the minister had much the best of the argument.

P.C. James has purchased the Worrick property of Cherry and First Streets. Henderson Fugate made the deal.

September 1, 1899 Twenty Years Ago: We have a beautiful Fair Ground, splendid water works system consisting of cisterns located in different parts of the town, holding 240 barrels each, all connected with gas pipe, and supplied with water by wind pumps; two hand fire engines; seven principal highways into the country stoned and graveled one mile each way from the center of town: streets in town all graded and many covered with stone and gravel; alleys all neat and clean; sidewalks all in first class shape; three coal shafts; one well with 8 burrs runs 24 hours a day; one feed mill; one firm paid \$100,000 for hogs the past year and two others nearly as much more: one meat market pays \$120,000 for live stock, annually: the ratings of our business men are first class; a store 22/30 a few years ago is now 100/50; peace and harmony rule supreme throughout our borders.

August 4, 1899 T.A. Beach's oats on the Virgin 40 yielded 72 bushels to the acre. This is allowing 3 acres for waste land.

Decker has lost his Washington position because of poor health.

August 11, 1899 The new brick tower for the waterworks is 20 feet high.

Will Bane has had typhoid fever.

August 18, 1899 Johnson Bane, brother of Will, is without doubt the finest guitarist in the United States. He is staying over, and Fairbury will probably hear his playing.

August 23, 1899 To Mr. and Mrs. N.E. Fulton, a girl.

Von Tobel's lumber yard will move. This will settle a controversy which has been troubling Fairbury for the past 10 years.

The Fairbury High School football team has been organized. Fullback Roe Bartlett, halfback John Purdum, Center Jim Patterson, right end Fred Bethard.

Mrs. Louis Henderson died of T.B.

Steve Murdock is keeping books in Peoria.

Bane is to give a guitar recital under the auspices of the Epworth League.

We have been chock full of business this week. Our partner, Sutton, is up north, probably sitting by a big shade tree by the side of a lake, with a fish pole in hands, pulling out bass, bull heads and turtles, while we have been assisting the boys in hustling out job work and fishing for news in the sunlight. We have secured a girl to do housework but she is rather new at the business, and then she appears to have assumed the position of superintendent of the ranch and it keeps us pretty busy attending to her wants. Dr. Brewer says she is a hustler, however, and fine as silk, and we have hopes for the future.

September 8, 1899 Hurdle racing, bronco busting and chariot racing at the Fair.

September 15, 1899 W.C.T.U. Convention in Pontiac.

Daily Blade, Sept. 20, 21, 22.

T.A. Beach, the superintendent of the Floral Hall was all smiles throughout the week, and well he might be as there was never a finer display in the building than the one this year.

H.B. Taylor is superintendent of Speed.

Fairbury High School football team beaten by Watseka 6-0.

Twenty Years Ago: Emery Westervelt has a contrivance of his own to hatch chickens.

Fairbury Cemetery has a new addition all platted. It is owned by Mike Morris.

September 29, 1899 The Rev. E.S. Wilson family has returned and will make Fairbury their home.

Chester Claudon is out of school, this having been accidentally hurt on the playground.

Jay Claudon occupies a seat in the school superintendent's office and attends to the bells and telephone.

Edith Barnes and Hazel Dominy who have been out of school for several years on account of ill health have enrolled for the year.

October 6, 1899 Football: Fairbury 6, Pontiac 5.

A.F. Filley is building a new corncrib.

Mrs. L.W. Kring fell down cellar and broke her leg. Dr. Lewis reduced the fracture.

October 13, 1899 Leona James gave a birthday party to a number of her young friends Saturday afternoon at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P.C. James. Refreshments were served and the young folks had an enjoyable time.

The Smith family are back home. Maje Smith, their son, who has been in Nebraska for the past two years came back with them.

A.F. Filley has been doing a splendid business in Hampshire Down sheep this fall. He has sold sheep to go to Iowa, Kentucky and a number of places in Illinois.

He recently received an order from a Gates City man for \$200 worth of Hampshires. These sheep are rapidly growing into favor among breeders, and Mr. Filley has the reputation of keeping the best animals to be found in the country.

T.A. Beach (and a number of others) attended the carnival in Peoria.

Chester Claudon, whose eye was injured about a month ago by a boy accidentally hitting that member with a crab apple, has been in Peoria the past three weeks under the care of a specialist in this line. In a recent letter to his father he said that he was considerably improved.

October 20, 1899 Trial for Sam Rightsell set for November 6, 1899.

Mrs. P.C. James in O. E. S. Court of Honor.

October 27, 1899 Dr. Lewis 1 Ob. To Mr. and Mrs. Logan Kring, a girl.

The north side sewer ditch is completed and tile is to be laid.

N.E. Fulton attended the meeting of the G and Commandry Knights Templar in Chicago as representative of St. Paul Commandry this week.

November 3, 1899 Rightsell's case continued.

First snow.

Twenty Years Ago (1897): John Virgin sells horse "Highland Chief" for \$1,500.00. Mrs. C.C. Rogers was awarded \$1500 damages against the town for falling from a defective sidewalk. Clarence Virgin has moved his lodging from over Beach and Dominy's bank, as everyone who rooms there gets married. Clarence says it is a serious matter with him, as it is either marry or move. His friends think he is not yet out of danger.

Helen Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Lewis, will marry Mr. Clarence Smith, son of Hon. Jas. A. Smith of Chatsworth and editor of the Chatsworth PLAINDEALER, on November 15, 1899.

A.F. Filley shipped Hampshire Down sheep to a customer in Carrollton, Kentucky, Tuesday.

Uncle Davie Sharp is on a vacation. He is 74 and began making his living at 11. He thinks he deserves one.

Paynes sell graaphones.

Nellie Wernsman's arm was broken by a boy on the school playground. Dr. Lewis reduced the fracture.

November 10, 1899 Von Toble bought 5 lots in the block east of the Shearer elevator for a lumber yard.

Ruth Taylor had her collar bone broken at school.

November 17, 1899 To Dr. and Mrs. Lewis, Sunday, November 12, a girl.

H.I. Reynolds is putting up a new laundry building.

November 24, 1899 Fairbury Football team Vs. Forrest: 0-0.

Thanksgiving possum supper at the A.M.E. Church 25 cents from 5:30 to 10:30.

Dr. Brewer is hunting in Arkansas. There are deer, turkey, bear and fish of all kinds.

December 1, 1899 Goodbye Cellulose Factory. Taking plants – big talkers – being no stockholders in Fairbury is perhaps why they are moving.
Von Tobel sells to Jesse Stevens.

Mrs. Emma Salisbury of Chicago is visiting her father, T.A. DuBois.

December 8, 1899 Twenty Years Ago (1879): The front of the stage at the Opera House is being remodeled. They have been having fun at DeWolf's Drug Store with a galvanized battery attached to a basin of water.

Marsden Company Talks Back

Signs on the new park site that Von Tobel vacated: Keep off the grass. Don't throw stones at the squirrels. Animal Building to the east. Balloon Ascension daily at 3:30. Don't hitch to the trees. Men wanted to run lawn mowers. (They were put up Sunday night)

A new milking machine is being shown. It milks from 17 to 20 cows in an hour.

F. Weber and Sons raise some of the finest collies in the country. One took first prize at the show at Joliet. Jay Claudon bought him.

December 11, 1899 Dr. Lewis 1 Ob: To Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, a girl.

The Blade says the Marsden Company was getting all the corn stalks it could handle.

Bowling party at Mallory and Carter's. Mrs. G.Y. McDowell got the highest ladies score and SJ Perlee the highest for the men.

Methodist Xmas entertainment, admission ten cents. "A beautiful battleship will be one of the novel features of the entertainment. It will sail into the audience loaded with luxuries for the little ones."

December 15, 1899 P.C. James, H.B. Taylor and F.L. Churchill are among the Fair Directors.

A.F. Filley received fifteen head of Hampshire Down sheep from importers in Canada and Penn. this week. They are splendid animals and without doubt the finest of that breed ever seen in this part of the country.

Robert Henning passed the bar examination.

December 22, 1899 Conerus has a new "Park" cigar to celebrate Von Tobel's moving his lumber yard.

December 29, 1899 Will Braun is in charge of the Drug Dept. at Marshall Field's.
(The Blade has not mentioned the turn of the Century.)